

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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TAGS: UNGA, ECOSOC

SUBJ: 28TH GA: REDUCTION OF THE INCREASING GAP BETWEEN
THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

1. DOCUMENT A/9197 CONTAINING LETTER FROM MINISTER OF
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SIERRA LEONE TOGETHER WITH ATTACHED
MEMO QUOTED BELOW. LETTER REQUESTS INSCRIPTION ADDED
ITEM 28TH GA AGENDA ON WIDENING GAP BETWEEN DCS AND LDCS.

2. SINCE GENERAL COMMITTEE SCHEDULED TAKE UP THIS
MATTER OCT 19 AT 9:30 AM, INSTRUCTIONS RESPECTFULLY
REQUESTED BY 9:00 AM.

3. WE HAVE INFORMALLY URGED SIERRA LEONE REP TO HOLD
THIS ISSUE INTO APPROPRIATE INSCRIBED AGENDA ITEM, E.G.
REVIEW AND APPRAISAL.

REQUEST FOR THE INCLUSION OF AN ADDITIONAL ITEM IN THE
AGENDA OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH SESSION

REDUCTION OF THE INCREASING GAP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED
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COUNTRIES AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

LETTER DATED 11 OCTOBER 1973 FROM THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS OF SIERRA LEONE TO THE SECRETARY-GENERAL

UPON INSTRUCTIONS FROM MY GOVERNMENT, I HAVE THE HONOUR TO REQUEST THAT THE ITEM ENTITLED "REDUCTION OF THE INCREASING GAP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" BE INCLUDED IN THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTH-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AS AN URGENT AND IMPORTANT QUESTION.

AN EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM IS ATTACHED IN ACCORDANCE WITH RULE 20 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE.

(SIGNED) DESMOND E.F. LUKE
MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

EXPLANATORY MEMORANDUM

1. ON 28 SEPTEMBER 1973, I POINTED OUT THE GROWING UNEASINESS AMONG THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES OVER THE WIDENING GAP BETWEEN THEM AND THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES. THIS PHENOMENON IS, REGRETTABLY ENOUGH, TAKING PLACE IN SPITE OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY FOR THE SECOND UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT DECADE LAUNCHED THREE YEARS AGO.

2. THE SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION IS FULLY AWARE OF THE FACT THAT THERE IS GOING ON, IN THE SECOND COMMITTEE, A REVIEW AND APPRAISAL OF PROGRESS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THAT STRATEGY. NEVERTHELESS, WE HAVE REQUESTED THAT THE REDUCTION OF THE GAP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED AND DEVELOPING COUNTRIES SHOULD NOT ONLY BE ONE OF OUR ORGANIZATION'S ACTION PROGRAMMES, BUT ALSO ONE OF TOP PRIORITY AND UTMOST URGENCY FOR INCLUSION IN THE AGENDA OF THE TWENTH-EIGHTH SESSION OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE REASONS FOR THIS ARE NOT NEW; THEY HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THE ATTENTION OF THIS AUGUST BODY OVER AND OVER AGAIN; BUT THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY HAS EITHER REMAINED PRACTICALLY NON-RESPONSIVE TO THIS HUE AND CRY OF THE POOR AND HUNGARY TWO THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POPULATION OR HAS DRAGGED ON DISCUSSIONS OF THIS URGENT

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PROBLEM.

3. ON MANY OF THESE IMPORTANT ISSUES THE ATTITUDE OF THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES HAS EITHER BEEN THAT OF VACILLATION OR OUTRIGHT REFUSAL. THE RESULT HAS BEEN A DETERIORATION IN THE RATE OF ECONOMIC GROWTH OF THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES; THEIR RELATIVE SHARE IN WORLD PRODUCTION AND TRADE HAS ACTUALLY SHOWN A DEFINITE DECLINE SINCE 1970. WORSE STILL,

THEY HAVE GROWN AT AN ANNUAL RATE OF LESS THAN 4 PER CENT,
WHEREAS THE SPECIFIED LEVEL WAS 6 PER CENT.

4. THE SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION CONSIDERS THIS SITUATION TO
BE EXPLOSIVE ENOUGH AND, TO PREVENT IT FROM DISINTEGRATING, THE
WORLD ORGANIZATION MUST, AS A MATTER OF PARAMOUNT IMPORTANCE,
INTERVENE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO RENDER JUSTICE WHERE
JUSTICE IS DUE BY REMEDYING THE SITUATION ALONG THE
FOLLOWING LINES:

(A) TRANSFER OF FINANCIAL RESOURCES FROM THE RICH TO THE
POOR COUNTRIES ON A SUFFICIENTLY "SOFT TERM" BASIS;

(B) PRACTICAL APPLICATION OF THE RECENT DECISION OF THE
GOVERNING COUNCIL OF THE UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME
TO DEVOTE A MUCH LARGER SHARE OF RESOURCES OF THE PROGRAMME
TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES AT THE LOWER END OF THE INCOME
SCALE;

(C) TRANSFER OF TECHNOLOGY TO DEVELOPING COUNTRIES, THROUGH
A CO-ORDINATED PROGRAMME OF ANALYSIS AND ACTION COVERING ALL
THE NECESSARY ASPECTS, TO ENSURE THAT TECHNOLOGY IS MORE
SYSTEMATICALLY GEARED TO THE SERVICE OF DEVELOPMENT
AND THE NEEDS OF THE RECIPIENT COUNTRY;

(D) REPLACING OR SUPPLEMENTING MULTINATIONAL CORPORATIONS
AS THE PRIMARY SUPPLIERS OF TECHNOLOGY TO THE DEVELOPING
COUNTRIES, PARTICULARLY GIVING TO THESE COUNTRIES
THE POSSIBILITY OF INFLUENCING THE CHOICE OF TECHNOLOGY TO
BE INTRODUCED;

(E) REMEDYING THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION BY INCREASING
SUBSTANTIALLY FOOD PRODUCTION IN THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES
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(FOR ANY SUCCESSFUL STRATEGY IN THIS DIRECTION, CONSIDERATION
SHOULD BE GIVEN TO HYDROLOGICAL, ECOLOGICAL AND CLIMATIC
CONDITIONS);

(F) AMELIORATION OF THE TERMS OF TRADE, WHICH WOULD
INCLUDE THE ABOLITION OF REVERSE PREFERENCES REQUIRED
BY CERTAIN ECONOMIC BLOCKS;

(G) BROADENING OF THE WORLD MONETARY SYSTEM TO INCLUDE
GREATER REPRESENTATION OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

5. THE NUMEROUS PROBLEMS WHICH HAVE ARISEN SO FAR SHOW THAT
THERE ARE VERY SERIOUS FLAWS OR EVEN SHORT-COMINGS IN
THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY,
WHICH HAVE LED TO A LOSS OF MOMENTUM OF THE CAUSE OF THE

DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. BECAUSE OF THIS, WE HAVE SOUNDED THE ALARM SO THAT THE SUBJECT COULD ONCE AGAIN ASSUME THE CENTRAL PLACE IT MERITS.

6. THE SIERRA LEONE DELEGATION IS REQUESTING THE INCLUSION OF THE ITEM ENTITLED "REDUCTION OF THE INCREASING GAP BETWEEN THE DEVELOPED COUNTRIES AND THE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES" IN ORDER FOR THE ORGANIZATION TO FIND WAYS AND MEANS OF DETERMINING, IN ADDITION TO THE OVER-ALL GROWTH TARGETS, TARGETS DESIGNED TO RAISE CONDITIONS OF LIFE OF THE TWO THIRDS OF THE WORLD'S POOREST INHABITANTS.

1/ A/PV.2133, PP. 62-80.

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